

Transcript:

**Steve:** Now, the Bush era tax cuts are set to expire at the conclusion of this year. While we've heard so much about the richest 3% or 4%, you know, we need to continue to tax them at a higher rate, a lot of people don't realize that the middle class tax cut is also set to expire as well, right?

**Congressman Pence:** That's exactly right. The point we tried to make this weekend in the Republican radio address is that if the Democratic Congress fails to act, taxes will go up on every single American at every single level. If you've got \$1,000 per child tax credit this year, it will be \$500 next year. Small business owners will see their taxes go up. Estate taxes will go from 0 to 55% in a single year on family farmers and small business owners. So if Congress fails to act, taxes will go up in every bracket, every category for every American.

**Steve:** Right. And the Democrats say well, we would like to extend the Bush era tax cuts for middle class but those evil, successful people at the top 3%, 4%, the so-called rich Americans, we'll continue to tax them at a higher rate. When you talk about those rich Americans, really, you're not talking about Donald Trump or a member the Rockefeller family. You're talking about a lot of people who own and operate America's small businesses which is where a lot of people get their jobs.

**Congressman Pence:** Well, that's right. Let's remember, this is the worst economy in 25 years. The economic policies of this administration, which have just amounted to more spending and more borrowing and more bailouts as well as government takeovers, have failed. The very idea that we would raise taxes on job creators during the worst recession in 25 years-- it's frankly astounding to millions of Americans. As you point out, according to our statistics, more than half of the people that file taxes at the level where the president and Democrats say they want to cut off the tax increase, more than half of the people over \$200,000 a year are actually small business owners filing as individuals. I don't know anybody in this country who thinks that raising taxes on job creators in this recession is a pathway towards recovery.

**Steve:** You know what? We have a couple of polls that seem to support that viewpoint. Do you approve of President Obama's handling of the economy? 57% disapprove. And do you think the Bush era tax cuts should be allowed to expire? Take a look at this. Only 27% say that 64% say continue going forward.

**Congressman Pence:** And I hope that means continue all of them going forward. I'm glad the democrats are talking about preserving some of the tax cuts from 2001 and 2003. I haven't seen a bill. I haven't seen any proposal. But we're glad they're talking about preserving some of these. Again, people need to know that they're adamant. The administration said this weekend that they thought the economy could 'withstand a tax increase.' Since when do we make economic policy in Washington about what the American people can withstand? We ought to be doing policies that release the trapped energy and inherent power of this economy and put Americans back to work.

**Steve:** All right. A lot of people feel the same way. Mike Pence the Republican from Indiana. Thank you very much for joining us.